

Kingston Conservation Advisory Council

Minutes September 9, 2009

Attendance:

Board Members: Julie Noble, Allison Taylor, Judith Deming, Valeria Gheorghiu, Elizabeth Higgins, Sydney Hymes, Gregg Swanzeay

Guests: Casey Schwarz, Charles Pollacco Jr., Andi Turco-Levin, John Dywer, Suzanne Cahill, Joanne Beesmer, Stephen Johnson

Meeting Called to Order: 6:34pm 6:40pm official

Motion made by Gregg to approve Aug. 12, 2009 minutes. Liz 2nd .

Next meeting will be October 14, 2009 at 6:30pm

Introductions made between the C.A.C. and the Planning Board

1. Presentations: Julie introduced our group to the Kingston Planning Board

- Julie went over the role of the CAC, in terms of legislation
- Natural resource inventory
- We want to work closely with the planning board
- Shared our goals and priorities
- Climate Smart/Green Jobs Pledge---tailored to meet the needs of Kingston
- Mapping natural resources in Kingston
- Education and grants available

2. Sue Cahill introduced the Planning board to the CAC.

- Suggested liaison for each group. Planning board meets 2nd Mon. every month.
- CAC can access minutes and agendas from the P.B. meetings. If we see anything that we are interested in getting involved with let the liaison know.
- Sue went over what the P.B. does---site visits, development, etc.
- Upcoming visits will be posted. She extended an invitation for us to join the next site visit. They will be seeking our advice re: environmental issues.
- Q: Julie---When an issue is brought up on the agenda, how new is it?
- A: Sue---legwork is done in-house with Planning Dept.
- Q: Valeria---would Planning Board be able to help with upgrades of government buildings? Val read paragraph re: land use planning, #6---from pledge
- A: Sue---They are working towards this---P.B. is already in compliance with a great deal of #6. Sue said the P.B. has no authority over government buildings.
- Kirkland Hotel is first geothermal building in Kingston, Senior housing project wants to do a green building
- P.B. follows zoning code, policies developed in group.
- Q: Liz---How much time does development and reviewing proposals take?
- A: Sue---starts at the staff level (research)---final approval has to go through the P.B.
- Discussion ensued regarding zoning laws and development. How can the CAC and the P.B. work together?
- Comprehensive Master Plan would need funding to rework, 5 years to implement.

- There are just as many development proposals, even in the present economy

3. What can the CAC do?

- Look at agendas
- Find areas of interest
- Or P.B. will send proposal to us for advice
- Call Planning office for information
- Gregg stated the CAC wants to offer advice, not hinder development.
- Sue suggested we look on the Kingston homepage and research the Digital Corridor Initiative
- Judith will attend next P.B. meeting ---Does any CAC member want to be a liaison? Think for next meeting.

4. Communications:

- Data collected by River Keeper --sample sites along tributaries. Kingston Public dock is a test site. May—Aug. water was above acceptable level for e. coli.
- Mike Madson-- ward9kingston@yahoo.com
Email regarding Green Jobs/Climate Smart Pledge. Valeria suggested some misinterpretation of actual pledge. Should we write letters to the editor to clarify?

5. Announcements:

- Sept. 17, 2009---Laws and rules committee meeting. Julie will not be able to attend. She suggested as many of us go as possible.
- Valeria and Julie met with the Mayor. He has not yet read the pledge, but is supportive of the concept. He will review it. He suggested we come up with a list of projects and find organizations to carry out tasks.
- Valeria will come up with Talking Points re: Climate Smart/Green Jobs Pledge.

6. Old business:

- We need to begin collecting our support letters. Felipa drafted a form letter for us to use in garnering support from community organizations
- Oct. 5, 2009 Caucus-----Oct. 6, 2009 Common Council Meeting
- Central Hudson Website---re: Smart Grid
- Val reviewed some funding opportunities---see Val for more info
- Julie wondered if the pledge name was too long---group agreed to leave it as is.
- Julie will set up a meeting with Steve Finkle---Economic Development Director
- Pay As You Throw Proposal---tabled and is with the Corporation Council---details to be worked out. Julie will be writing a letter in support of this proposal.
- Bike Map---Julie will talk with Andrew about where to find the map. Is it on a website?

7. Reports:

- EMC---no meeting in Aug. Julie was sent Events of General Interest to EMC/CAC members
- Hudsonia Biodiversity Assessment Training---Report is due at end of October.

8. Administrative Matters:

- Local legislation---we haven't heard anything---Julie will look into this.

- Policies and Procedures—Gregg formatted template tailored to what we do in our CAC. Allison reviewed, made changes and forwarded to Valeria. She will review and forward to the rest of the group
- Board Recruitment—Andrew needs to write a formal letter resigning from the Kingston CAC
- Board Priorities---tabled

9. New Business:

- Pesticide Initiative, regarding municipal properties
- Rebecca Martin spoke with Phil Guirrieri. He is a concerned citizen worried about pesticide use.
- Ulster Co. just passed an ordinance banning pesticide use on municipal properties. CAC should do a survey to DPW to get baseline data. Q: Can we change policies in Kingston to include all city use?
- Julie will suggest to the Kingston Land Trust/Garden Group that they do the legwork and we will make a recommendation to support data.

Meeting Adjourned
Liz moved, 2nd Judith

8:54pm